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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Johannus Theodorus Matheus Dielissen

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EXAMINER

CHAU, PETER P

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2419

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/577,741	Applicant(s) DIELISSEN ET AL.	
	Examiner PETER CHAU	Art Unit 2419	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 April 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Receipt is acknowledged of amendment filed on 4/30/2009. Claim(s) 3-5 have not been amended. Claim(s) 1-2 and 6 were amended. Claim(s) 7-8 are newly added.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 4/30/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Brewer teaches "information frames from input queues...pass simultaneously through a crossbar switch".

Claim Objections

3. Claim(s) 6 is/are objected to because of the following informalities: change "the routers having a plurality of queues" to something along the lines of "a plurality of routers having a plurality of queues" . Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim(s) 1-3 and 6-8 is/are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "Trade-offs in the design of a router with both guaranteed and best-effort services for networks on chip." Rijpkema et. al. (herein after "Rijpkema") (IDS filed

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on 4/26/2006) and in further view of U.S. Patent 6,711,357 to Brewer et al (hereinafter "Brewer").

As per claim 1, while Rijpkema teaches **an integrated circuit comprising a network, the network comprising a plurality of routers** (fig. 3 shows a network comprising a plurality of routers),

at least one of the routers comprising a plurality of input ports arranged to receive input data corresponding to at least two traffic classes (fig. 8, shown is a router that has a plurality of input ports receiving data, the BQs (Best effort data queues) and GQs (guaranteed data queues) define traffic classes that are coupled to input ports),

the routers further comprising a plurality of queues, wherein each queue of the plurality of queues is arranged to store input data corresponding to a single traffic class, wherein the input ports are coupled to at least two of the queues (fig. 8 shows BQs (Best effort data queues) and GQs (guaranteed data queues) in their own set of queues and that the input port is coupled to the BQs and GQs),

the routers further comprising a switch (fig. 8 shows a switch (crossbar)),
Rijpkema does not teach **wherein the switch is arranged to receive input from each queue of the plurality of queues simultaneously**.

However, Brewer teaches a crossbar switch receiving input from each of the input queues simultaneously (col. 12 lines 55-67 to col. 13 line 1).

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Rijpkema with Brewer's crossbar switching receiving from all input queues simultaneously to have information and control being synchronized as they flow through a router system (Brewer, col. 2 lines 47-50).

As per claim 6, while Rijpkema teaches a method for avoiding starvation of data in an integrated circuit comprising an act of:

providing a router having a plurality of input ports receiving input data corresponding to at least two traffic classes (fig. 8, shown is a router that has a plurality of input ports receiving data, the BQs (Best effort data queues) and GQs (guaranteed data queues) define traffic classes that are coupled to input ports),

the routers (fig. 3 shows plural routers) **having a plurality of queues** (fig. 8 shows plural queues BQs and GQs),

storing in each queue of the plurality of queues input data corresponding to a single traffic class (fig. 8 shows BQs (Best effort data queues) and GQs (guaranteed data queues) in their own set of queues),

coupling the input ports to at least two of the queues (fig. 8 shows BQs (Best effort data queues) and GQs (guaranteed data queues) in their own set of queues and that the input port is coupled to the BQs and GQs),

and providing a switch (fig. 8 shows a switch (crossbar)), Rijpkema does not teach **receiving at the switch input from each queue of the plurality of queues simultaneously.**

However, Brewer teaches a crossbar switch receiving input from each of the input queues simultaneously (col. 12 lines 55-67 to col. 13 line 1).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Rijpkema with Brewer's crossbar switching receiving from all input queues simultaneously to have information and control being synchronized as they flow through a router system (Brewer, col. 2 lines 47-50).

As per claim 2, the combination of Rijpkema and Brewer teaches **the integrated circuit as claimed in claim 1, wherein** Rijpkema teaches **a first selection of the plurality of queues is arranged to store input data corresponding to a high priority traffic class, and wherein a second selection of the plurality of queues is arranged to store input data corresponding to a low priority traffic class** (fig. 8 shows the input port selecting data to be queued into two classes, BQ (Best effort data queue) and GQ (guaranteed data queue); page 295 right column line 28-30, guaranteed services would be used for critical traffic (i.e. high priority traffic class) and best-effort services used for non-critical traffic (i.e. low priority traffic class)).

As per claim 3, the combination of Rijpkema and Brewer teaches **the integrated circuit as claimed in claim 2, wherein** Rijpkema teaches **the first selection is deployed to provide guaranteed communication services in the network, and wherein the second selection is deployed to provide best-effort communication services in the network** (fig. 8 shows the input port selecting data to be queued into two classes, BQ (Best effort data queue) and GQ (guaranteed data queue); page 295 right column line 28-30, guaranteed services would be used for critical traffic (i.e. high priority traffic class) and best-effort services used for non-critical traffic (i.e. low priority traffic class)).

As per claim 7, the combination of Rijpkema and Brewer teaches **the integrated circuit as claimed in claim 2, wherein the switch is arranged to receive**

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(Rijpkema fig. 8) **input from both a high priority traffic class** (Rijpkema pg. 295 right column 1st paragraph, discloses guaranteed services. Examiner correspond guaranteed services to applicant's high priority traffic class) **and a low priority traffic class** (Rijpkema pg. 295 right column 2nd paragraph, discloses Best-effort services. Examiner correspond best-effort services to applicant's low priority traffic class) **simultaneously** (Brewer col. 12 lines 55-67 to col. 13 line1).

Examiner provides the same rationale for the combination as stated in claim 1.

As per claim 8, the combination of Rijpkema and Brewer teaches **the method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the act of receiving at the switch** (Rijpkema fig. 8) **comprises an act of receiving input from both a high priority traffic class** (Rijpkema pg. 295 right column 1st paragraph, discloses guaranteed services. Examiner correspond guaranteed services to applicant's high priority traffic class) **and a low priority traffic class** (Rijpkema pg. 295 right column 2nd paragraph, discloses Best-effort services. Examiner correspond best-effort services to applicant's low priority traffic class) **simultaneously** (Brewer col. 12 lines 55-67 to col. 13 line1).

Examiner provides the same rationale for the combination as stated in claim 6.

6. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rijpkema and Brewer and in further view of U.S. PGPub 2009/0010152 to Ofek et al (hereinafter "Ofek") and in further view of U.S. Patent 6,831,922 to Shimada.

As per claim 4, while the combination of Rijpkema and Brewer teaches **the integrated circuit as claimed in claim 1**, the combination of Rijpkema and Brewer does not, but Ofek teaches **further comprising a controller which is coupled to the input ports and coupled to the switch** (paragraph [0126], discloses each input ports is coupled to the switch scheduler (controller) and to the switching fabric (switch)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the inventions of Rijpkema and Brewer with Ofek's controller coupled to the input ports and a switch to have switching of data packets in a network in a timely manner while providing low switching complexity and performance.

The combination of Rijpkema and Brewer and Ofek does not teach, but Shimada teaches a **controller comprising a plurality of arbiters, wherein the arbiters of at least one of the traffic classes implement a predetermined schedule** (col. 2 lines 36-37, discloses fig. 2 showing a block diagram showing what is inside a contention priority control circuit (controller); fig. 2 shows a plurality of arbiters; abstract, discloses a contention priority control circuit (controller) which receives data of two classes and arbitrates contention between output requests for outputting these data to a bus on the basis of priority classes (scheduling for output based on priority classes) and arbiters; col. 3 lines 27-36, discloses each arbiter receives an output request and selects a port under rotational priority control; col. 7 lines 1-3, discloses shifting the priority separately for high and low-priority classes by rotational scheduling. Under the rotational scheduling, the arbiters outputs high or low-priority cells).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Rijpkema and Brewer and Ofek with Shimada's controller with plural arbiters for scheduling output to arbitrate cell output contention between output ports when the ring arbiter has cell buffers for two priority classes (Shimada, col. 1 lines 50-57).

7. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rijpkema and Brewer and in further view of U.S. Patent 5,046,000 to Hsu.

As per claim 5, while the combination of Rijpkema and Brewer teaches **the integrated circuit as claimed in claim 1**, the combination of Rijpkema and Brewer does not, but Hsu teaches **wherein the switch comprises a plurality of multiplexers, each multiplexers being coupled to plurality of queues and each one of the multiplexers being arranged to accept as input the input data stored in the queues** (col. 3 lines 38-57, discloses a switch comprising a plurality of multiplexers coupled to an output and discussing only the upper half of the switch since the other half is identical to the upper half and the upper half multiplexer directs one of the incoming messages to queue FIFO; col. 4 lines 41-45, discloses extracting information from the queue FIFO and outputting it via a multiplexer).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Rijpkema and Brewer with Hsu's switch

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containing a plurality of multiplexer being coupled to an output and receives from queues to have a high speed data combining switch (col. 1 lines 6-9).

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PETER CHAU whose telephone number is (571)270-7152. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/P. C./

Examiner, Art Unit 2419

/Ayaz R. Sheikh/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2419